

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

15-09-2026

Kawal Tiger Reserve



Telangana's tiger reserve with no tigers

The Kawal Tiger Reserve connects major tiger landscapes and has large prey populations but no resident big cats.



Why in News

- A **12-year study conducted during 2010–2022** found that no tigers live permanently in **Kawal Tiger Reserve**.

Geographical Setting

- **Kawal Tiger Reserve** is located in **Telangana** and lies at the southernmost tip of the **Central Indian Tiger Landscape**.
- It has ecological linkages with **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra** and **Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh**.
- The reserve forms an important catchment of the **Godavari River** and local rivers such as **Peddavagu and Kadam**.

Wildlife Significance

- Major fauna include **tiger, nilgai, chousinga, chinkara, blackbuck, sambar, spotted deer, wild dog, wolf, jackal, fox, leopard and jungle cat**.
- Despite supporting tiger habitat and landscape connectivity, the study indicates an absence of **permanent tiger occupancy** during the study period.

Ecological Characteristics

- Its landscape includes **dense forests, grasslands, rivers, streams and water bodies**.
- The predominant vegetation is **Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest**.
- Important flora includes **teak, bamboo, Anogeissus latifolia, Mitragyna parviflora, Terminalia crenulata, Terminalia arjuna and Boswellia serrata**.

Kandaleru Dam

TNIE The New Indian Express

Andhra halts Krishna water supply to TN from Kandaleru reservoir, cites low storage conditions

Following the stoppage of the supply to Chennai, the release from the reservoir has been reduced to half the earlier release, with the water...



Why in News

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** stopped the release of **Krishna River water to Chennai** from the Kandaleru Reservoir.

Location & River System

- **Kandaleru Dam** is located in **Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh**, and is built across the **Kandaleru River**, a tributary of the **Pennar (Penna) River**.
- The reservoir is connected with the **Somasila Reservoir** and has a maximum storage capacity of about **68 TMC**.
- It is an **earthen dam** extending for about **12 km**, making it one of India's major long reservoirs.

Telugu Ganga Linkage

- The dam is an important component of the **Telugu Ganga Project**, which supplies drinking water to **Chennai**.
- The project uses canals and tunnels, including the **Kandaleru–Poondi canal**, to transport water towards Chennai.
- The **Telugu Ganga Project** was approved in **1977** following an agreement involving Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Multipurpose Importance

- Besides irrigation and drinking-water supply, the reservoir supports **industrial water needs** and helps regulate river flows during the monsoon.
- The project links the **Krishna River system** with the water-supply requirements of Chennai.

Paniya Tribe

TH The Hindu

Rights panel orders rehabilitation after Vaniyampuzha tribal families spend 7 years in plastic tents

The Kerala State Human Rights Commission has directed authorities to urgently rehabilitate Paniya tribal families living in makeshift...



Why in News

- The **Kerala State Human Rights Commission** directed authorities to urgently rehabilitate **Paniya tribal families** living in makeshift shelters at Vaniyampuzha in Kerala.

Distribution & Demographic Significance

- The **Paniya (Paniyan)** are a major **Scheduled Tribe of Kerala**, concentrated mainly in **Wayanad** and also found in Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram.
- Paniya communities are also present in **Gudalur and Pandalur of Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris** and parts of **Kodagu, Karnataka**.
- They constitute the **largest single Scheduled Tribe population in Kerala**, according to the source.

Socio-economic & Linguistic Profile

- The term **"Paniyan"** is derived from the Malayalam word **"pani"**, meaning **work**, reflecting their traditional association with labour.
- The community has historically experienced **bonded labour**, while many contemporary Paniyas own land and cultivate crops such as **rice and ragi**.
- The **Paniya language** belongs to the **Dravidian family** and is closely related to Malayalam.



Cultural Characteristics

- Traditional Paniya settlements consist of rows of **bamboo huts with thatched roofs**, which may be single- or double-storied.
- The community worships **Kali and the banyan tree** and traditionally avoids cutting banyan trees due to associated beliefs.
- The source notes that some scholars have proposed an **African origin** for the community, including a possible connection with **Kapiri**, though this is presented as a scholarly proposition.

Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

PTI Press Trust of India

Abandoned mines emerge as bird-rich habitats in Asola-Bhatti: Study

New Delhi, Sep 12 (PTI) Abandoned mining areas in the Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary have emerged as the most bird-rich habitat studied in...



Why in News

- Researchers found that **abandoned mining areas** in Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary have become among the **most bird-rich habitats** studied in the area.

Geographical & Ecological Setting

- **Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary** lies in **southern Delhi**, bordering Haryana, and forms part of the **Southern Delhi Ridge of the Aravalli Range**.
- It covers about **32.71 sq km**, with its core area extending from near **Tughlaqabad Fort** towards the former Bhatti mining pits.
- Abandoned mining pits have transformed into **wetlands and water pools**, supporting diverse bird habitats.

Landscape & Conservation Linkages

- The sanctuary forms part of the **Northern Aravalli leopard wildlife corridor**, linking the **Sariska National Park** through Haryana to the Delhi Ridge.
- Important associated locations include **Chattarpur Temple, Tughlaqabad, Surajkund, Anangpur Dam and Adilabad Ruins**.
- Its rocky hills, valleys and seasonal streams represent the characteristic **Aravalli landscape**.

Biodiversity

- Vegetation includes **dhak, babool (Acacia), khejri, shrubs and grasses** adapted to semi-arid conditions.
- Important fauna include **Indian leopard, jackal, nilgai, sambar, wild boar and mongoose**, along with reptiles such as **monitor lizard, Indian cobra and Russell's viper**.
- More than **200 bird species** have been recorded, including **Indian peafowl, crested serpent-eagle and Indian roller**.

Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic PNG Connections

 DD India

Incentive scheme aims to accelerate PNG connections, bring clean piped cooking gas to more Indian homes

India has stepped up efforts to expand access to clean and affordable cooking fuel with the launch of the Incentive Scheme for Promotion of...



Why in News

- India launched the **Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic PNG Connections** to expand access to **clean and affordable piped cooking fuel**.

Institutional Framework

- The scheme seeks to increase active domestic **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** connections by incentivising **City Gas Distribution (CGD)** entities.
- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** is the nodal ministry, while CGD networks are developed by entities authorised by the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)**.

Implementation Mechanism

- The scheme will be implemented in **two tranches over six months**, with a minimum connection target fixed for each **Geographical Area**.
- Eligible CGD entities must add billed domestic connections above the prescribed threshold during the performance period.

Incentive Structure

- For every qualifying incremental domestic connection, the entity receives an additional allocation of **200 Standard Cubic Metres (SCM) of gas**.
- The scheme seeks to convert **unbilled connections into active, billed connections**, improving utilisation of existing CGD infrastructure.

Vitamin D

The Indian Express

Vitamin D3 may be more effective than D2; here's why

Vitamin D2 vs D3: Experts explain the differences, food sources and which form may be more effective at raising and maintaining vitamin D...



Why in News

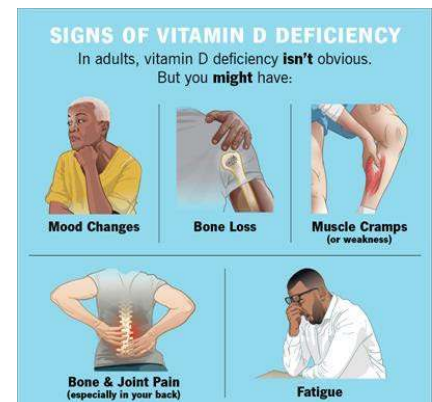
- A study involving **184 women undergoing mastectomy** found that low **vitamin D** levels may be associated with more painful recovery after breast-cancer surgery.

Physiological Functions

- **Vitamin D (calciferol)** is a **fat-soluble vitamin** commonly known as the “**sunshine vitamin**” because UV radiation triggers its synthesis in the skin.
- It promotes **calcium absorption** and helps maintain adequate **calcium and phosphorus** levels required for healthy bones and teeth.
- It also has roles in **immune function, neuromuscular function, cell growth, inflammation and glucose metabolism**.

Dietary Sources & Metabolism

- Natural dietary sources include **egg yolks, saltwater fish and liver**, while fortified foods include **milk, cereals and yoghurt**.
- Vitamin D can be stored in **body fat** and released when sunlight is unavailable.



Deficiency & Excess

- Deficiency causes **rickets in children** and **osteomalacia in adolescents and adults**, with symptoms including weak bones, bone pain and muscle weakness.
- Excessively high vitamin D levels can cause **nausea, vomiting, weakness, dehydration, excessive urination, kidney stones and kidney failure**.
- Higher skin melanin content and extensive clothing coverage can reduce sunlight-mediated vitamin D synthesis.

MERCOSUR Group



Reuters Connect

<https://www.reutersconnect.com> > item > mercosur-begi...

Mercosur begins negotiations to expand its trade ...

2 days ago — Mercosur, made up of Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, aims to increase from 450 to 3,000 the number of products eligible for tariff ... [Read more](#)

Why in News

- **India and MERCOSUR** signed the **First Additional Protocol** to their Preferential Trade Agreement to facilitate acceptance of **electronic Certificates of Origin**.

Regional Economic Bloc

- **MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market)** is a South American regional economic organisation established in **1991 through the Treaty of Asunción**.
- It became a **customs union in January 1995** and seeks freer movement of **goods, services, capital and people**.
- Its headquarters is in **Montevideo, Uruguay**, and its official working languages are **Spanish and Portuguese**.



Membership Structure

- The original members were **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay**, while **Bolivia and Venezuela** joined subsequently.
- **Venezuela has been suspended since 1 December 2016**, while **Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname** are associate members.

Institutional Mechanism

- The **Common Market Council** is MERCOSUR's highest decision-making body and coordinates foreign and economic policy.
- It comprises the foreign and economic ministers of member states, with decisions taken by **consensus**.
- The presidency of the bloc **rotates every six months** among its full members.

India–MERCOSUR Trade Linkage

- The **India–MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** was signed on **25 January 2004** and entered into force on **1 June 2009**.
- The agreement provides preferential tariff concessions on **450 tariff lines by India** and **452 tariff lines by MERCOSUR**.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Ingerana aizawl

 The Times of India

Mistaken for another species for years, Mizoram frog gets its identity

Mizoram University researchers identify new frog species *Ingerana aizawl* in Aizawl, using DNA and morphology, highlighting hidden NE India...



Why in News

- A small frog discovered at **Hratdawng Stream on the Mizoram University campus, Aizawl**, has been formally recognised as a **new species**.

Species & Distinctive Features

- ***Ingerana aizawl*** is a small, stout-bodied frog with adult males measuring **22–25.5 mm** and females **24.4–26 mm** in snout-to-vent length.
- It has a **circular tympanum, prominent supratympanic fold, rounded digital discs**, and a distinctly wrinkled dorsal surface.
- Its colour varies from **dark brown to reddish-brown**, while the iris is dark brown to blackish with a faint coppery tint.



Habitat & Ecology

- The species is closely associated with **streams, wetlands, marshes and forest habitats** at elevations of **94–823 m**.
- Most individuals were observed at night on **wet rocks near trickling, fast-flowing and cascading streams**.
- During daytime, it shelters in **rock crevices, moist leaf litter and bushes**, with breeding apparently coinciding with the **monsoon**.

Acoustic & Geographical Significance

- Its call generally contains **12 notes**, lasts about **1.42 seconds**, and has a dominant frequency of **3,359 Hz**.

Defence

India–US Yudh Abhyas 2026

Why in News

- The **22nd edition** of **Yudh Abhyas** began on **15 September 2026** at **Auli, Uttarakhand** and **Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan**.

	Key Facts ➤ About 600 personnel each from the Indian Army and US Army are participating, with the exercise ending on 28 September 2026. ➤ Auli provides high-altitude mountain terrain, while Mahajan facilitates desert warfare and field-firing training. ➤ The exercise focuses on Integrated Battle Groups, infantry operations, interoperability, joint planning, drones and autonomous systems. ➤ Yudh Abhyas is an annual bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and US Army.  INDIA-US JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS 2026 COMMENCES AT AULI AND MAHAJAN The opening ceremony of 22nd edition of India-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas was held today at Auli Foreign Training Node in... 
Science and Technology	SARAL AI  DD India CSIR-NIScPR Leverages SARAL AI to Convert Research Papers into Videos, Expand Reach of Scientific Knowledge The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) is leveraging SARAL AI, an initiative of the...  Why in News ➤ CSIR-NIScPR has adopted SARAL AI to make scientific research more accessible through AI-enabled science communication. Institutional Linkages ➤ SARAL AI is an initiative of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), New Delhi. ➤ The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) is leveraging the platform for science communication. AI-enabled Functions ➤ The platform converts complex research publications and patents into podcasts, short videos, posters and business briefs. ➤ Researchers can upload papers through arXiv links or direct LaTeX files, after which the system extracts content and figures. ➤ AI models such as Gemini and GPT are used to generate presentation scripts, while voice synthesis creates multilingual narration.

Multilingual Outreach

- SARAL AI can automatically produce presentation videos combining **slides, narration and visual elements**.
- It supports dissemination of scientific content in **18 Indian languages**, including **Hindi**, thereby widening public access to research.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh: From 'Nari Shakti' to 'Arth Shakti'

 India Today

Uttar Pradesh: Moving from 'Nari Shakti' to 'Arth Shakti'

Uttar Pradesh has framed women's empowerment as a driver of economic growth, not only social recognition. The shift is reflected in stronger...



Why in News

- Uttar Pradesh is linking **women's empowerment with economic growth**, with rising workforce participation and entrepreneurship.

Economic Empowerment

- Women's **labour force participation** increased from **12% to over 36%**.
- Women are associated with **96 lakh+ MSME units**, **4 lakh+ milk producers**, and nearly half of **24,000+ startups**.

Education & Livelihood

- **Kanya Sumangala Yojana** provides **₹25,000** from birth to graduation, while **50% seats in Atal Residential Schools** are reserved for girls.
- **Lakhpati Didi**, **Drone Didi**, **BC Sakhi** and **Project Ganga** promote women's entrepreneurship, technology and banking, with **4,000 women entrepreneurs** targeted across **8,000 Nyaya Panchayats**.

Security & Social Protection

- Women police personnel increased from **10,000 to 44,000**, alongside **Mission Shakti Centres**, **Women Beat Police** and **three women PAC battalions**.
- Over **5 lakh daughters** benefited from **Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana**, while **1 crore+ Gharounis** provide home ownership rights.